

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

### 2. Fiscal Year

2018

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

359

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

04/12/2018

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

04/12/2020

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Secretary's Decision Memorandum

### 13. Effective Date

12/28/1970

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

National Policy Issue Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The members were convened to hear presentations, discuss policies and guidance on a number of topics, and to (1) finalizing the last Resiliency reports, focused on tools, mechanisms, and the data necessary to support dynamic adaptive fishery management actions and an executive summary to complete the Resiliency work MAFAC has engaged in the past two years; (2) discuss the activities and progress of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force to date; and (3) consider draft comments from the Climate and Marine Resources Task Force on the DRAFT 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA4) Chapter 9, Oceans and Marine Resources. MAFAC heard directly from two members of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force members and West Coast Region staff. Updates were presented on other topics: Aquaculture activities and potential opportunities for engagement; science activities including electronic technologies and monitoring, citizen science, and deployment of new buoys; communications and outreach through FishWatch and the new NOAA Fisheries website; NOAA Fisheries grant-making processes; recreational fisheries update; the legislative, administrative, and budget outlook; and a report from the agency administrator. MAFAC discussed various administrative and organization matters, and meetings of standing subcommittees and working groups were held to prepare reports for full committee consideration. MAFAC was pleased to receive a report from RDML Timothy Gallaudet, the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting Under Secretary. Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator of Fisheries; Paul Doremus, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations; Cisco Werner, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Scientific Advisory; Barry Thom, Deputy Regional Administrator, West Coast Region; Michael Rubino, Director of the Office of Aquaculture; and Jennifer Lukens, Director of the Office of Policy and the Designated Federal Officer to MAFAC represented NOAA Fisheries leadership at the meeting. Staff from the West Coast Region and from Headquarters offices of Science and Technology, Sustainable Fisheries, Management and Budget, and Policy all participated as presenters.

11/28/2017 - 11/30/2017

The members were convened to hear presentations, discuss policies and guidance on a number of topics. At this meeting, eight new MAFAC members were introduced to the Committee and NMFS leadership. The primary focus was to receive an in-depth report on the activities and progress of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force to date from six Task Force members and the West Coast Regional Administrator. The presentation covered the vision, guiding principles, qualitative goals, quantitative goals, and draft report outline. MAFAC members also conducted a site visit to the Bonneville Dam and Bonneville hatchery to learn more about Columbia Basin watershed issues. Additionally, MAFAC received a detailed response to their Resiliency Report, which MAFAC has transmitted in December 2017; a report on the Office of Communications' efforts to build consumer confidence and support for U.S. seafood; updates on recreational fisheries survey efforts; aquaculture activities and potential opportunities for engagement; science activities including new research technologies, modeling, and stock assessment improvements; the new NOAA Fisheries website; the legislative, administrative, and budget outlook; and a report from the agency administrator. MAFAC discussed re-engaging its Aquaculture Task Force, and recommended extending its term by two years and two committees began crafting work plans for the FY2019 year. Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator of Fisheries; Paul Doremus, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations; Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulations; Cisco Werner, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Scientific Advisory; Barry Thom, West Coast Regional Administrator, and Jennifer Lukens, Director of the Office of Policy and the Designated Federal Officer to MAFAC represented NOAA Fisheries leadership at the meeting. Other staff from the West Coast Region and Headquarters participated in the meeting, in addition to the six members of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force.

06/26/2018 - 06/27/2018

The purpose of this meeting was for MAFAC to discuss and approve two draft work plans for the Commerce and Recreational Fishing Subcommittees. An update on activities of Aquaculture Task Force work was also presented. Jennifer Lukens, Director of the Office of Policy and the Designated Federal Officer to MAFAC represented NOAA Fisheries leadership at the meeting. Other staff that participated represented the offices of Communications, Sustainable Fisheries, and Policy.

09/06/2018 - 09/06/2018

## Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$435,758.00	\$431,155.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$444,323.00	\$547,448.00

<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$84,407.00	\$91,051.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$15,143.00	\$15,512.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$4,744.00	\$25,044.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$38,771.00	\$50,000.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$1,023,146.00	\$1,160,210.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	2.25	2.25

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

MAFAC advises the Secretary of Commerce on policies and guidance for stewardship of the Nation's living marine resources. The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (or designee) and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries actively participate and identify topics for deliberation by the Committee that are timely and relevant to the Secretary. MAFAC in return provides recommendations to the Secretary regarding policies, regulations, and programs that are the responsibility of the Department. As a national advisory group, MAFAC provides a public forum where candid discussions on complex issues of resource management and science can occur. During these discussions, various options and concerns are examined, objectives identified, and mutual understanding developed. MAFAC provides input from a wide variety of constituencies that improve the agency's knowledge regarding what will be supported as well as what will be controversial.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

For over 47 years, MAFAC has maintained a diverse group of professional and academic expert members who represent regional, national, or international perspectives on living marine resources. The current composition of the Committee balances gender, ethnic, geographic, and sectoral representation and includes expertise in aquaculture; seafood and trade; commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing and related industries; natural resource and protected species management; environmental issues; and social, economic, and biological sciences. All members are recognized leaders in their field and contribute a wide-range of knowledge and experience. The caliber of the membership is exemplified by the fact that periodically, members of MAFAC must step down because they are nominated by their governors and appointed by the Secretary to serve on the regional fishery management councils. Similarly, some applicants wishing to serve on MAFAC have past experience serving on regional fishery management councils.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

As required by the Charter, the full Committee meets at least twice each calendar year in

person. The topics for consideration on the agenda are derived from a mix of DOC and NOAA current or forthcoming issues suggested by the federal participants, and ideas and topics suggested/requested by MAFAC members. The topics are always relevant and timely. MAFAC continues to make policy recommendations on key programs and legislative initiatives that address the science and management of fisheries and protected species and emerging issues facing NOAA Fisheries. The detailed presentations and discussions that comprise all MAFAC meetings is necessary to support the thoughtful and deliberative work of the Committee. In FY2018, one virtual meeting (by teleconference) and two in-person meetings were held to gather input from external experts and to discuss, consider, and provide recommendations on several high level policy issues. In early FY2018, MAFAC finalized the work of its Resilience Ad Hoc Working Group. The goal of this work was to provide advice on how NOAA and NMFS can best meet coastal and fishing communities and fishing-dependent sector needs with respect to resources, habitat, and socio-economic resiliency in a changing climate. At the November 2017 meeting, MAFAC finalized its last two resilience reports focused on (1) fisheries management framework actions that allow a more nimble management response to changes in fish stocks and fisheries and (2) data requirements needed to support adaptive fisheries management. With these reports, The Resilience Ad Hoc Working Group completed its six task Areas. The Co-chairs of the Working Group drafted an overarching Executive Summary that identified several overarching recommendations and tied each of the six final reports together (those completed in FY2017 and those completed in FY2018). At the November 2017, MAFAC also discussed and accepted comments from its Coastal and Marine Resources Task Force and MAFAC members on Chapter 9, Oceans and Marine Resources, of the DRAFT 4th US. National Climate Assessment (NCA4). NMFS accepted these comments and submitted them to United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), of which the Department of Commerce is a member agency, via the official website for public comment on NCA4: [review.globalchange.gov](http://review.globalchange.gov). At both the November 2017 and June 2018 meetings, MAFAC received updates and monitored the progress of its Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (CBP Task Force). The CBP Task Force was established in January 2017 to develop recommendations and help define common goals for a shared path forward for long-term salmon and steelhead recovery. The CBP Task Force met four times in person and once virtually in FY2018, to conduct its work. Two CBP Task Force members presented an overview of the work underway to MAFAC at its November meeting, and six Task Force members gave an in-depth presentation on the vision, guiding principles, qualitative goals, quantitative goals, and draft report outline at the June 2018 meeting. In June, MAFAC members also conducted a site visit to the Bonneville Dam and Bonneville Fish Hatchery to learn more about Columbia Basin watershed issues. In late January 2019, the CBP Task Force is expected to finish its report on its Phase I work, and

considering the substantial progress that has been achieved, MAFAC approved the Task Force to continue its work through FY2019 and commence Phase II, including scenario planning. MAFAC also began discussions on new topics at its June meeting, particularly on improving consumer confidence in U.S. seafood and recreational fisheries data issues. During a teleconference meeting in September 2018, MAFAC approved draft work plans for both its Commerce and Recreational Fisheries Subcommittees. The Committee's subcommittees, working groups, task forces, and the full Committee were engaged throughout the year on each of the issues outlined. MAFAC was successful in ensuring its work and comments were timely and relevant.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

As a national advisory committee with diverse expertise and disciplines in the fields of living marine resource management and science, MAFAC has proven to be an invaluable resource for the Administration to identify common ground on which controversial and highly visible issues can move forward. MAFAC pre-dates FACA and is the oldest advisory body in NOAA, having advised on implementation of such landmark initiatives as the Law of the Sea and the original Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976. It is the only FACA chartered advisory committee with responsibility to advise the Secretary on all living marine resources that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. Many marine resource issues tend to be highly controversial and require a great deal of public transparency and consensus building. The MAFAC has become an increasingly useful asset for serving in this role, providing the agency and the Administration with a public sounding board to identify issues and develop strategies on which common ground and mutual agreement can be established. The focus of MAFAC and its Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force on watershed-wide salmon and steelhead issues is a good example of this. While regional commissions and councils exist, MAFAC is the only national, open, transparent organization that focuses on oceans policy and living marine resource stewardship from the unique perspective of stakeholders collaborating with the government to provide advice on national policy. MAFAC meetings are open to the public and tend to be well attended. The detailed and explanatory discussions of complex issues (that are not always articulated well in the media) provide the agency a degree of public education that is proving increasingly valuable. MAFAC provides a valuable and candid forum for the anticipated debates revolving around the implementation of ocean management initiatives.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

N/A.

## 21. Remarks

The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Department's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries serve as ex officio members to the Committee. The executive directors of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Interstate Fisheries Commissions serve as non-voting ex officio members to the Committee. MAFAC's subcommittees meet in person in conjunction with full Committee meetings and by teleconference between meetings. The costs for the subcommittees are included in the cost listed for the full committee. The actual costs for FY2018 were higher than we estimated, due to the work of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force, the amount of time and level of technical work completed this past year

## Designated Federal Officer

Jennifer Lukens DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Ames, Edward	09/01/2012	11/30/2017	Senior Advisory, Penobscot East Resource Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Beideman, Terri	10/12/2014	10/05/2018	CEO, Vast Array Corporation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Belle, Sebastian	07/10/2017	07/10/2020	Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Berkowitz, Roger	07/10/2017	07/10/2020	President & CEO, Legal Sea Foods, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bonney, Julie	03/01/2012	02/28/2018	Executive Director, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brame, Richen	03/01/2012	02/28/2018	Atlantic Fisheries Director, Coastal Conservation Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brandon, Heather	10/12/2014	10/12/2017	Senior Program Officer, World Wildlife Fund	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cunningham, Colin	07/10/2017	07/10/2020	Conservation Editor, Salt Water Sportsman	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Davis, Megan	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Florida Atlantic University, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Espinoza, Raimundo	04/17/2016	04/16/2019	Environmental Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Feliciano, Rasela	07/10/2017	07/10/2020	Vice President, Feli Fisheries, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Feller, Erika	10/30/2015	10/30/2018	Program Director for North American Fisheries, The Nature Conservancy	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gill, Robert	07/10/2017	07/10/2020	Co-Owner, Shrimp Landing	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hamilton, Elizabeth	03/01/2012	02/28/2018	Executive Director, Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jones, Robert	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, Environmental Defense Fund	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kalez, Donna	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Owner/Manager, Dana Wharf Sportfishing	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McDonald, Sara	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Senior Fisheries Scientist, Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moore, Peter	10/30/2015	10/30/2018	Stakeholder Liaison, MARACOOS	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Moreland, Stefanie	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Director of Government Relations & Seafood Sustainability for Trident Seafood	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Okoniewski, Michael	10/12/2014	10/12/2020	General & Regional Manager, Pacific Seafood Group	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Parsons, James	10/30/2015	10/30/2018	Manager, Aquaculture Programs for the Jamestown Tribe, Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pearce, Harlon	10/30/2015	10/30/2018	Owner/Operator, Harlon's LA Fish LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rheault, Robert	03/01/2012	02/28/2018	Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schumacker, Ervin "Joe"	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Marine Scientist, Quinault Department of Fisheries, Quinault Indian Nation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shelley, Peter	10/12/2014	10/12/2017	Senior Counsel & Vice President, Conservation Law Foundation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Upton, Matthew	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Attorney, United States Seafoods	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Yamada, Richard	03/12/2018	03/12/2021	Owner, Shelter Lodge, an Alaska Sportfishing lodge	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Yochem, Pamela	03/01/2012	02/28/2018	Senior Research Scientist & Executive VP, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

## Number of Committee Members Listed: 28

## Narrative Description

MAFAC is a national advisory body with diverse expertise and member viewpoints. As NOAA is a regulatory agency with responsibility for managing and sustaining living marine resources, many of the actions, decisions, and priorities of the agency are controversial. MAFAC provides an invaluable forum in which controversial and key issues can be discussed, mutual understanding developed, and common ground established for expanded public dialogue and debate. The value and importance of this role has increased in recent years as the Administration seeks guidance and input on the contemporary challenges in its strategic plan: climate adaptation and mitigation; sustaining healthy and productive ecosystems to support marine fisheries, habitats and biodiversity; protecting and restoring threatened and endangered species and coastal and marine habitat; ensuring coastal communities are resilient and supporting healthy communities and economies; and supporting new planning and management strategies for aquaculture and other appropriate uses of offshore areas.

## What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

Although many MAFAC recommendations have been adopted by the agency, they normally take the form of general policy guidance, priorities, and advice, rather than specific regulatory or fisheries management actions for which benefit-cost computations are made. Members do serve in a voluntary capacity, and a rough approximation of the value of the time directly donated through MAFAC and its task forces is on the order of \$400,000-\$600,000 per year.

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

462

### Number of Recommendations Comments

The MAFAC usually produces advisory recommendations at the end of each meeting. Depending on the topic and work, the recommendations can be concise and reasonably feasible for the agency to pursue, while others can be involved and detailed in lengthy reports. Prior to FY2006, there was no FACA requirement to track recommendations. Therefore, the answer to this question is an estimate based on the DFO and staff's experience, and a direct tracking of recommendations since 2006. MAFAC recommendations are based on the work and activities that had been undertaken by

subcommittees, task forces, or working groups that were brought to the full Committee for deliberation and approval. In FY2018, MAFAC contributed 16 recommendations from its work over the course of the year. Their recommendations included the following: (1) Completion of their Resilience work, with 13 new recommendations addressing fisheries and fishing community needs for resilience planning, frameworks and adaptive management, data and information needs to support adaptive management, and effective communication strategies to provide forecasts of environmental changes and impacts to key fisheries audiences, stakeholders, and communities; (2) Approval of one set of comments on the DRAFT 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA4) Chapter 9, Oceans and Marine Resources; (3) support for the development of an effective national aquaculture initiative at NOAA to advance domestic aquaculture production; (4) Approval of to re-engage the Aquaculture Task Force for two more years to provide technical feedback on the recommended guidance for aquatic animal health plans; and to provide input on the topics and strategies to address future science and technology needs that support informed science-based decision-making and help advance the aquaculture industry. This future input will be to support the development of a Strategic Aquaculture Science Plan.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

70%

#### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

The final report and minutes of each meeting along with any advisory recommendations are distributed throughout the agency and targeted to the appropriate staff responsible for the issue of focus. The 70 percent is based on the recent DFO's experience and is not a reflection of what has been implemented over the lifetime of the Committee. In FY2018 – approximately 70% of the Committee's recommendations were implemented or continue to be under consideration, in particular, recommendations in the “Abundant Seas” report covering data and science-based decision making; flexible adaptive management, seafood business and trade, cooperative research and management, recreational fisheries, and protected resources recovery.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

15%

#### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

This is an estimate. Some recommendations are individually very detailed, and in some

cases, the entire suite of recommendations may not be implemented. It is important to note that in some years, recommendations to interagency bodies are beyond the sole control and authority of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

At the beginning of each meeting, a specific discussion, follow-on presentation, or recap of what the agency has done is provided in response to the latest recommendations by the Committee. In addition, members of MAFAC are briefed by subject matter experts at each meeting on progress and status on issues and questions raised by the Committee. Written reports, draft regulations, or policies are provided and discussed with the full Committee.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

MAFAC has served as a forum in which draft initiatives are candidly discussed in an open forum allowing for Committee input to be taken into consideration before the agency takes any formal action. In addition, the Committee provides guidance and feedback to the agency on strategic elements involved with public outreach, constituent communication, and 'marketing messages' for complicated and/or controversial issues.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

Current MAFAC reports, activities, and minutes are posted and maintained on a web page located on the agency's web site, along with DFO contact information. In the fall of 2017, NOAA Fisheries began transition to a new user-friendly website. Old reports and documentation that are not on the site are maintained per the customary records management regulations. Copies of past reports and documentation are available to the public by sending requests to the DFO's office.